

LEAD*Educator*



CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM

WINTER 2003

MISSION STATEMENT

The LEAD*Educator* is a quarterly publication of the Long Beach Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

Our goal is to provide news and information about childhood lead poisoning prevention measures for parents, childcare providers and the medical community.

In addition, we provide the latest information on lead poisoning screening and legislative measures.

NEWS

Governor Davis signs Senate Bill 460

On September 26, Governor Gray Davis signed SB 460 into law after several revisions and amendments. This landmark law will go into effect January 1, 2003. It will provide local authorities with new and stronger legislative mandates. This has been a great victory for those who fought long and hard to implement regulations that will protect children from lead exposures in the home before actual poisoning occurs. Since the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act of 1991, this is the first law to dramatically change childhood lead poisoning prevention efforts.

Senator Deborah Ortiz from Sacramento (Senate District-06) introduced SB 460 following recommendations from the California Department of Health Services (DHS).

Ortiz and others hoped to resolve several years of criticism and litigation from community activists and local governmental agencies over the failure of California state officials to comply with existing mandates to reduce childhood lead poisoning.

Senate Bill 460 provides the following legislative mandates:

- Defines any amount of deteriorated lead-based paint as a lead hazard, subject to **penalties** under state law. It authorizes local building, code enforcement and health departments to investigate and enforce the law, just like other **housing violations**.
- Prohibits any construction work that creates a "**lead hazard**," defined as "disturbing any amount of presumed lead-based paint without containment." This will enable **local enforcement** of unsafe work and requires lead hazards to be safely abated. Violators can be fined up to \$1,000 for each offense.
- Requires that laboratories across the state, report all blood lead test results. Currently, laboratories are obliged to report only those blood lead levels (BLL's) that meet case definition for childhood lead poisoning, i.e. BLL's greater than 20 ug/dL. Laboratory "**universal reporting**" will allow DHS officials to collect accurate data on the prevalence of childhood lead screening and poisoning in California.

LEAD-SAFE AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM

This is a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant-funded program that provides lead hazard control services to affordable housing units in Long Beach. Eligible housing units must be privately owned, built before 1940 and occupied by families with young children. In addition, the program is restricted to an area of several square miles bordered by Hill and 7th Streets, on the North and South, Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. on the East and the Los Angeles River on the West. For additional information, contact the Long Beach Lead-Safe Affordable Housing Program at (562) 570-8879.

FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA Long Beach Collaborative

This new program provides outreach and education to families, schools and the community on the following topics:

- The importance of prenatal care breastfeeding and oral health,
 - The effects of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs on infants and children,
 - Early literacy,
 - Child safety and injury prevention,
- For more information call (562) 570-4292.

Imported Pottery/ Ceramic Dishes: The Hidden Dangers

Imported pottery, especially from Mexico and China, contains enough lead to cause severe lead poisoning. Even dishes with lower lead levels may contribute to a person's overall lead exposure. However, for most people, pottery (ceramics) alone does not pose a significant risk of lead exposure. Other sources of lead, such as lead in paint or soil, are much more likely to be a problem, especially for children.

Why is lead in pottery?

Lead is used in the glazes or decorations covering the surface of some ceramic dishes. Brightly colored lead compounds are used as decorative pigments in ceramic ware because their bright colors don't fade during the high temperatures required by the glazing process.

How does lead get from pottery / ceramic dishes into the body?

Lead can be released from the glaze or decoration on the surface of the dish and pass into the food or drink in the dish. This is called "**leaching**." The amount of lead that leaches from a dish depends on the amount of lead in the dish, the type of glazing that is used, how the dish is used, how long food is left in the dish and the kinds of food put in it. This is especially true of acidic liquids such as coffee, juice, vinegar, soy sauce, wine and tomato sauce.

What pottery / ceramic dishes may expose you to lead?

You cannot tell for sure whether a dish has lead just by looking at it. However, some types of dishes are more likely to have lead. Here's what to watch for:



- Bright colors or decorations on the inside dish surfaces that touch the food or drink,
- Traditional glazed terra cotta ware made in some Latin American countries, such as Mexican bean pots (Pictured left),
- Highly decorated traditional dishes in some Asian communities (Pictured left),
- Rough or raised decorations (You can feel the decoration when you rub your finger over the dish),
- Antique tableware,
- Corroded glaze, or a dusty or chalky gray residue on the glaze after the piece has been washed.

Home lead test kits are now available in hardware, home improvement, and paint stores. These tests use chemicals that react in the presence of lead, though they will not tell you the amount of lead present.

Remember NOT to heat, cook or store foods in dishes that contain or might contain lead. This is especially true for children, pregnant women, or nursing mothers.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Report

Current Open Cases Under Management:

108

New Lead Cases For (Aug./ Dec. 2002)

16

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For additional information, please call the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at (562) 570-4203 or (562) 570-4083 (Spanish)

MediCal and Healthy Families

Call: (562) 570-8770
Or
1 (800) 832-2307

Health Information and Resources for Parents:

Call: Yolanda Salomon-Lopez, Health Educator (562) 570-4271

INFORMATION ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

California Department of Health Services
<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/childlead/>

Alliance to end Childhood Lead Poisoning
<http://a eclp.org>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<http://epa.gov/opptintr/lead/>

T.D.D. (562) 570-4230

This document is available in an alternative format by request: (562) 570-4083